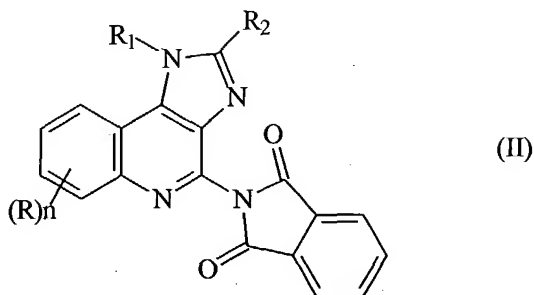


What is claimed is:

1. A compound of formula (II):



wherein

R_1 is selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen; a straight or branched chain alkyl
5 of one to about 10 carbon atoms, optionally substituted with a substituent selected from the
group consisting of lower alkyl, cycloalkyl of 3 to about 6 carbon atoms, wherein said cycloalkyl
is optionally substituted with a lower alkyl group; straight or branched chain alkenyl of 2 to about
10 carbon atoms, wherein the olefinic unsaturation in the alkenyl group is at least one carbon
atom removed from the 1-nitrogen, and wherein the straight or branched chain alkyl is optionally
10 substituted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, cycloalkyl of 3 to
about 6 carbon atoms, wherein said cycloalkyl is optionally substituted with a lower alkyl group;
hydroxyalkyl of one to about six carbon atoms; acyloxyalkyl wherein the acyloxy moiety is
alkanoyloxy of two to about four carbon atoms or benzoyloxy and the alkyl moiety contains one
to about six carbon atoms; benzyl; (phenyl)ethyl; and phenyl, wherein said benzyl, (phenyl)ethyl
15 and phenyl substituents are optionally substituted on the benzene ring by one or two moieties
independently selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, and halogen, with
the proviso that when the benzene ring is substituted by two such moieties, then the moieties
together contain more than 6 carbon atoms;

R_2 is selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen; straight or branched chain alkyl
20 containing one to about eight carbon atoms; benzyl; (phenyl)ethyl; and phenyl, wherein said
benzyl, (phenyl)ethyl and phenyl substituents are optionally substituted on the benzene ring by
one or two moieties independently selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, lower

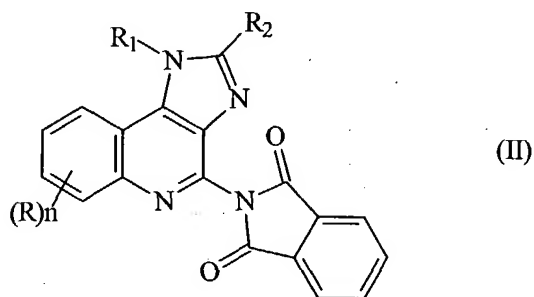
alkoxy, and halogen, with the proviso that when the benzene ring is substituted by two such moieties, then the moieties together contain more than 6 carbon atoms;

R is independently selected from the group consisting of: alkoxy of one to about four carbon atoms; alkyl of one to about four carbon atoms; and halogen; and

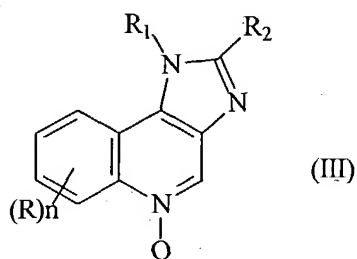
n is an integer from 0 to 2, with the proviso that if n is 2, then said groups together contain no more than 6 carbon atoms.

2. A compound of claim 1, wherein R₁ is isobutyl, R₂ is hydrogen, and n is 0.

3. A process for preparing a 1H-imidazo[4,5-c]quinoline 4-phthalimide of formula (II):



comprising reacting a compound of formula (III):



with phthalimide, wherein

R₁ is selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen; a straight or branched chain alkyl

of one to about 10 carbon atoms, optionally substituted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, cycloalkyl of 3 to about 6 carbon atoms, wherein said cycloalkyl is optionally substituted with a lower alkyl group; straight or branched chain alkenyl of 2 to about 10 carbon atoms, wherein the olefinic unsaturation in the alkenyl group is at least one carbon atom removed from the 1-nitrogen, and wherein the straight or branched chain alkyl is optionally substituted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, cycloalkyl of 3 to about 6 carbon atoms, wherein said cycloalkyl is optionally substituted with a lower alkyl group; hydroxyalkyl of one to about six carbon atoms; acyloxyalkyl wherein the acyloxy moiety is alkanoyloxy of two to about four carbon atoms or benzoyloxy and the alkyl moiety contains one to about six carbon atoms; benzyl; (phenyl)ethyl; and phenyl, wherein said benzyl, (phenyl)ethyl and phenyl substituents are optionally substituted on the benzene ring by one or two moieties independently selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, and halogen, with the proviso that when the benzene ring is substituted by two such moieties, then the moieties together contain more than 6 carbon atoms;

R_2 is selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen; straight or branched chain alkyl containing one to about eight carbon atoms; benzyl; (phenyl)ethyl; and phenyl, wherein said benzyl, (phenyl)ethyl and phenyl substituents are optionally substituted on the benzene ring by one or two moieties independently selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, and halogen, with the proviso that when the benzene ring is substituted by two such moieties, then the moieties together contain more than 6 carbon atoms;

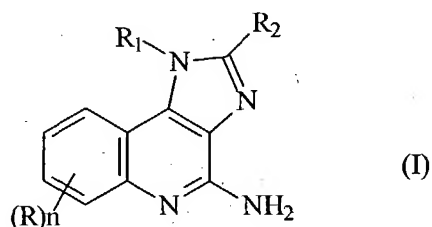
R is independently selected from the group consisting of: alkoxy of one to about four carbon atoms; alkyl of one to about four carbon atoms; and halogen; and

n is an integer from 0 to 2, with the proviso that if n is 2, then said groups together contain no more than 6 carbon atoms.

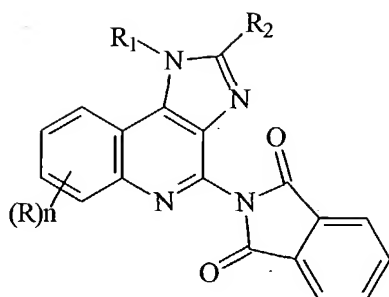
4. The process of claim 3, wherein R_1 is isobutyl, R_2 is hydrogen, and n is 0.

5. The process of claim 3 or claim 4, wherein the reaction takes place in the presence of a base and a solvent

6. The process of claim 5, wherein the solvent is selected from the group consisting of methylene chloride and ethylacetate and the base is selected from the group consisting of tri-n-butylamine, triethylamine, and triisobutylamine.
7. The process of claim 6, wherein the solvent is ethylacetate and the base is tri-n-butylamine.
8. The process of claim 5, wherein the reaction further takes place in the presence of an organic acid halide.
9. The process of claim 8, wherein the organic acid halide is benzoyl chloride.
10. The process of claim 3 or claim 4, wherein the reaction takes place at a temperature of between about 0 to about 10 °C.
11. The process of claim 3 or claim 4, wherein the compound of formula (III) and phthalimide are reacted over a period of about 1 hour.
12. A process for preparing a compound of formula (I):



comprising reacting a compound of formula (II):



(II)

with hydrazine hydrate, wherein

R_1 is selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen; a straight or branched chain alkyl of one to about 10 carbon atoms, optionally substituted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, cycloalkyl of 3 to about 6 carbon atoms, wherein said cycloalkyl is optionally substituted with a lower alkyl group; straight or branched chain alkenyl of 2 to about 10 carbon atoms, wherein the olefinic unsaturation in the alkenyl group is at least one carbon atom removed from the 1-nitrogen, and wherein the straight or branched chain alkyl is optionally substituted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, cycloalkyl of 3 to about 6 carbon atoms, wherein said cycloalkyl is optionally substituted with a lower alkyl group; hydroxyalkyl of one to about six carbon atoms; acyloxyalkyl wherein the acyloxy moiety is alkanoyloxy of two to about four carbon atoms or benzoyloxy and the alkyl moiety contains one to about six carbon atoms; benzyl; (phenyl)ethyl; and phenyl, wherein said benzyl, (phenyl)ethyl and phenyl substituents are optionally substituted on the benzene ring by one or two moieties independently selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, and halogen, with the proviso that when the benzene ring is substituted by two such moieties, then the moieties together contain more than 6 carbon atoms;

R_2 is selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen; straight or branched chain alkyl containing one to about eight carbon atoms; benzyl; (phenyl)ethyl; and phenyl, wherein said benzyl, (phenyl)ethyl and phenyl substituents are optionally substituted on the benzene ring by one or two moieties independently selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, and halogen, with the proviso that when the benzene ring is substituted by two such moieties, then the moieties together contain more than 6 carbon atoms;

R is independently selected from the group consisting of: alkoxy of one to about four

carbon atoms; alkyl of one to about four carbon atoms; and halogen; and

n is an integer from 0 to 2, with the proviso that if n is 2, then said groups together contain no more than 6 carbon atoms.

13. The process of claim 12, wherein R_1 is isobutyl, R_2 is hydrogen, and n is 0.

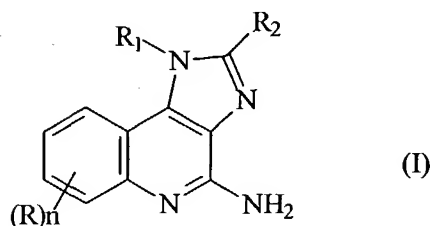
5 14. The process of claim 11 or claim 12, wherein the reaction takes place in the presence of a solvent and isooctyl alcohol.

15. The process of claim 14, wherein the solvent is water.

16. The process of claim 11 or claim 12, wherein the reaction is carried out at a temperature of between about 94-95 °C.

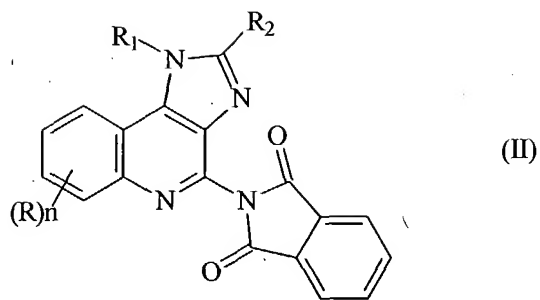
10 17. The process of claim 11 or claim 12, wherein the compound of formula II and hydrazine hydrate are reacted for a period of about 4 to about 5 hours.

18. A process for preparing a compound of formula (I):

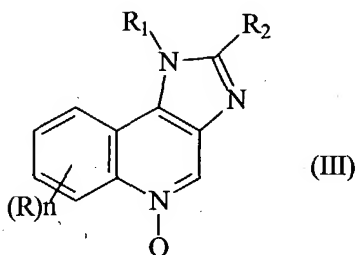


comprising:

a) preparing a compound of formula (II):



by reacting a compound of formula (III):



with phthalimide; and

- 5 b) converting the compound of formula II to a compound of formula (I), wherein
- R₁ is selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen; a straight or branched chain alkyl of one to about 10 carbon atoms, optionally substituted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, cycloalkyl of 3 to about 6 carbon atoms, wherein said cycloalkyl is optionally substituted with a lower alkyl group; straight or branched chain alkenyl of 2 to about 10 carbon atoms, wherein the olefinic unsaturation in the alkenyl group is at least one carbon atom removed from the 1-nitrogen, and wherein the straight or branched chain alkyl is optionally substituted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, cycloalkyl of 3 to about 6 carbon atoms, wherein said cycloalkyl is optionally substituted with a lower alkyl group; hydroxyalkyl of one to about six carbon atoms; acyloxyalkyl wherein the acyloxy moiety is
- 10 alkanoyloxy of two to about four carbon atoms or benzoyloxy and the alkyl moiety contains one to about six carbon atoms; benzyl; (phenyl)ethyl; and phenyl, wherein said benzyl, (phenyl)ethyl and phenyl substituents are optionally substituted on the benzene ring by one or two moieties
- 15

independently selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, and halogen, with the proviso that when the benzene ring is substituted by two such moieties, then the moieties together contain more than 6 carbon atoms;

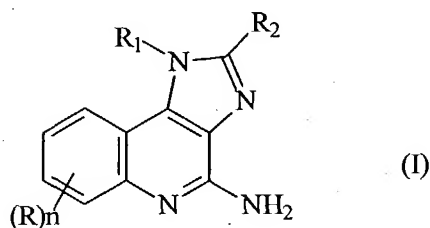
5 R_2 is selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen; straight or branched chain alkyl containing one to about eight carbon atoms; benzyl; (phenyl)ethyl; and phenyl, wherein said benzyl, (phenyl)ethyl and phenyl substituents are optionally substituted on the benzene ring by one or two moieties independently selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, and halogen, with the proviso that when the benzene ring is substituted by two such moieties, then the moieties together contain more than 6 carbon atoms;

10 R is independently selected from the group consisting of: alkoxy of one to about four carbon atoms; alkyl of one to about four carbon atoms; and halogen; and

n is an integer from 0 to 2, with the proviso that if n is 2, then said groups together contain no more than 6 carbon atoms.

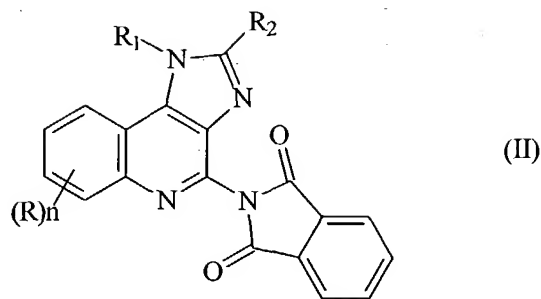
19. The process of claim 18, wherein R_1 is isobutyl, R_2 is hydrogen, and n is 0.

15 20. A process for preparing a compound of formula (I):



comprising:

a) preparing a compound of formula (II):



and

b) reacting the compound of formula (II) with hydrazine hydrate to form a compound of formula (I), wherein

R_1 is selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen; a straight or branched chain alkyl of one to about 10 carbon atoms, optionally substituted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, cycloalkyl of 3 to about 6 carbon atoms, wherein said cycloalkyl is optionally substituted with a lower alkyl group; straight or branched chain alkenyl of 2 to about 10 carbon atoms, wherein the olefinic unsaturation in the alkenyl group is at least one carbon atom removed from the 1-nitrogen, and wherein the straight or branched chain alkyl is optionally substituted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, cycloalkyl of 3 to about 6 carbon atoms, wherein said cycloalkyl is optionally substituted with a lower alkyl group; hydroxyalkyl of one to about six carbon atoms; acyloxyalkyl wherein the acyloxy moiety is alkanoyloxy of two to about four carbon atoms or benzoyloxy and the alkyl moiety contains one to about six carbon atoms; benzyl; (phenyl)ethyl; and phenyl, wherein said benzyl, (phenyl)ethyl and phenyl substituents are optionally substituted on the benzene ring by one or two moieties independently selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, and halogen, with the proviso that when the benzene ring is substituted by two such moieties, then the moieties together contain more than 6 carbon atoms;

R_2 is selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen; straight or branched chain alkyl containing one to about eight carbon atoms; benzyl; (phenyl)ethyl; and phenyl, wherein said benzyl, (phenyl)ethyl and phenyl substituents are optionally substituted on the benzene ring by one or two moieties independently selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, and halogen, with the proviso that when the benzene ring is substituted by two such

moieties, then the moieties together contain more than 6 carbon atoms;

R is independently selected from the group consisting of: alkoxy of one to about four carbon atoms; alkyl of one to about four carbon atoms; and halogen; and

n is an integer from 0 to 2, with the proviso that if n is 2, then said groups together contain no more than 6 carbon atoms.

21. The process of claim 20, wherein R_1 is isobutyl, R_2 is hydrogen, and n is 0.